


In the Claims:

Please cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 10 to 16 as follows:

10. A method of forming a micromold having a cavity comprising the steps of:
- a. providing a mold having a cavity which is substantially a mirror image of increased dimensions with reference to the cavity of the proposed micromold,
 - b. providing sinterable particulates and determining their density,
 - c. sintering said sinterable particulates and determining the density of the resulting sintered body,
 - d. determining the ratio of said sintered density to the density of said sinterable particulates,
 - e. determining the required shrinkage factor by dividing a dimension of said mold cavity by the corresponding dimension of the cavity of the proposed micromold,
 - f. establishing the necessary volumetric fraction of said sinterable particulates in a uniform dispersion of said sinterable particulates in an organic binder in order to achieve said shrinkage factor by dividing said density ratio by the cube of said shrinkage factor.
 - g. producing a green body which is a scaled-up replica of the proposed micromold by filling said mold cavity with said uniform dispersion of sinterable particulates in an organic binder,
 - h. extracting substantially all of the organic binder from said green body and sintering the ensuing binderfree body to obtain the desired micromold.

11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the method of fabricating the mold having a cavity which is substantially a mirror image of increased dimensions with reference to the cavity of the proposed micromold comprises the steps of:

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- a. providing a mold having a cavity which is substantially a mirror image of increased dimensions with reference to the cavity of the mold having a cavity which is substantially a mirror image of increased dimensions with reference to the cavity of the proposed micromold,
 - b. producing a green body by filling said mold cavity with a uniform dispersion of sinterable particulates in an organic binder,
 - c. extracting substantially all of the organic binder from said green body and sintering the ensuing binderfree body to obtain a sintered body which is a diminutive replica of said green body,
 - d. inserting said sintered body into the cavity of a second mold to obtain the desired mold having a cavity which is substantially a mirror image of increased dimensions with reference to the cavity of the proposed micromold.

12. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said sinterable particulates are micrometer-sized or nanometer-sized particulates.

13. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said sinterable particulates are selected from the class of metals and their alloys, ceramics and their alloys and mixtures of metals and ceramics or their alloys.

14. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said organic binder is constituted by one or more organic materials selected from the class of polyolefins, waxes, plasticizers, greases, oils, surfactants or mixtures of these.

15. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said micromold is used to produce MEMS devices.

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16. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said micromold is used to produce MEMS packages.
